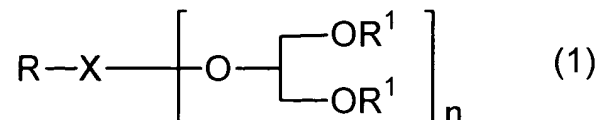
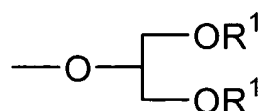


b.) Amendment to the Claims:

1. (Original) A compound represented by formula (1):



wherein R represents a residue comprising a reactive group or a group capable of being transformed into the reactive group; n represents an integer of 3 or more; and X represents a residue capable of having the following structure by n in number:



R<sup>1</sup>'s each represent a hydrogen atom or a group capable of being transformed into a hydrogen atom, and 6 or more of R<sup>1</sup>'s may be the same or different.

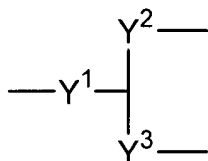
2. (Original) The compound according to claim 1, wherein each R<sup>1</sup> represents a hydrogen atom.

3. (Original) The compound according to claim 1, wherein each R<sup>1</sup> represents benzyl.

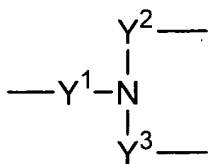
4. (Currently Amended) The compound according to ~~any one of~~  
~~claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein n is  $2^m$ , in which m is an integer of 2 or more.

5. (Currently Amended) The compound according to ~~any one of~~  
~~claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein X comprises one or more series branched structure.

6. (Currently Amended) The compound according to ~~any one of~~  
~~claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein X comprises one to (n-1) structure(s) represented by

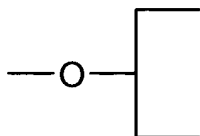


or

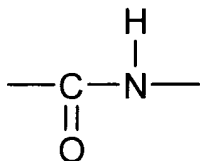


wherein  $\text{Y}^1$ ,  $\text{Y}^2$  and  $\text{Y}^3$  each independently represent a single bond,  
or one, or two or more in any combination, which may be the same or different, selected  
from the group consisting of substituted or unsubstituted alkylene, carbonyl, substituted or  
unsubstituted imino, O, S, sulfonyl and sulfinyl, and when  $\text{Y}^1$ ,  $\text{Y}^2$  and  $\text{Y}^3$  exist two or more  
in number, they may be the same or different.

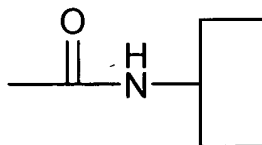
7. (Currently Amended) The compound according to ~~any one of~~  
~~claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, wherein X comprises one to (n-1) structure(s) represented by



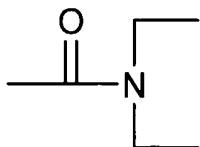
8. (Currently Amended) The compound according to ~~any one of~~  
~~claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, wherein X comprises one to (n-1) structure(s) represented by



9. (Currently Amended) The compound according to ~~any one of~~  
~~claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, wherein X comprises one to (n-1) structure(s) represented by



10. (Currently Amended) The compound according to ~~any one of~~  
~~claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, wherein X comprises one to (n-1) structure(s) represented by

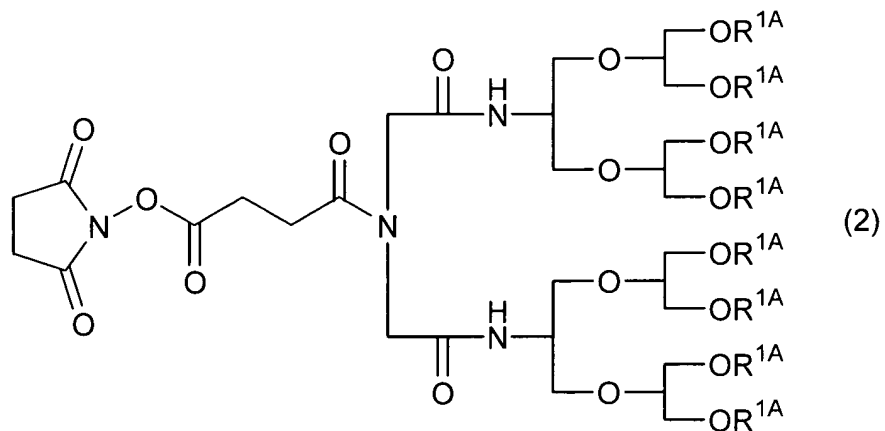


11. (Currently Amended) The compound according to ~~any one of~~  
~~claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1, wherein the residue comprising a reactive group or a group capable  
of being transformed into the reactive group is a residue comprising a group having  
reactivity to or a group capable of being transformed into the group having reactivity to an  
amino acid side chain, an N-terminal amino group or a C-terminal carboxyl group in a  
physiologically active polypeptide or a derivative thereof, or a sugar chain bound to the  
polypeptide.

12. (Currently Amended) The compound according to ~~any one of~~  
~~claims 1 to 11~~ claim 1, wherein the residue comprising a reactive group or a group capable  
of being transformed into the reactive group is selected from the group consisting of a  
carboxylic acid active ester residue, carbonate, maleimido, mercapto, formyl, tresyl,  
isocyanato, an acid anhydride residue, an acid halide residue, vinylsulfonyl, hydrazido,  
amino, a hydroxyl group, halogen, carboxy, vinyl and phosphono.

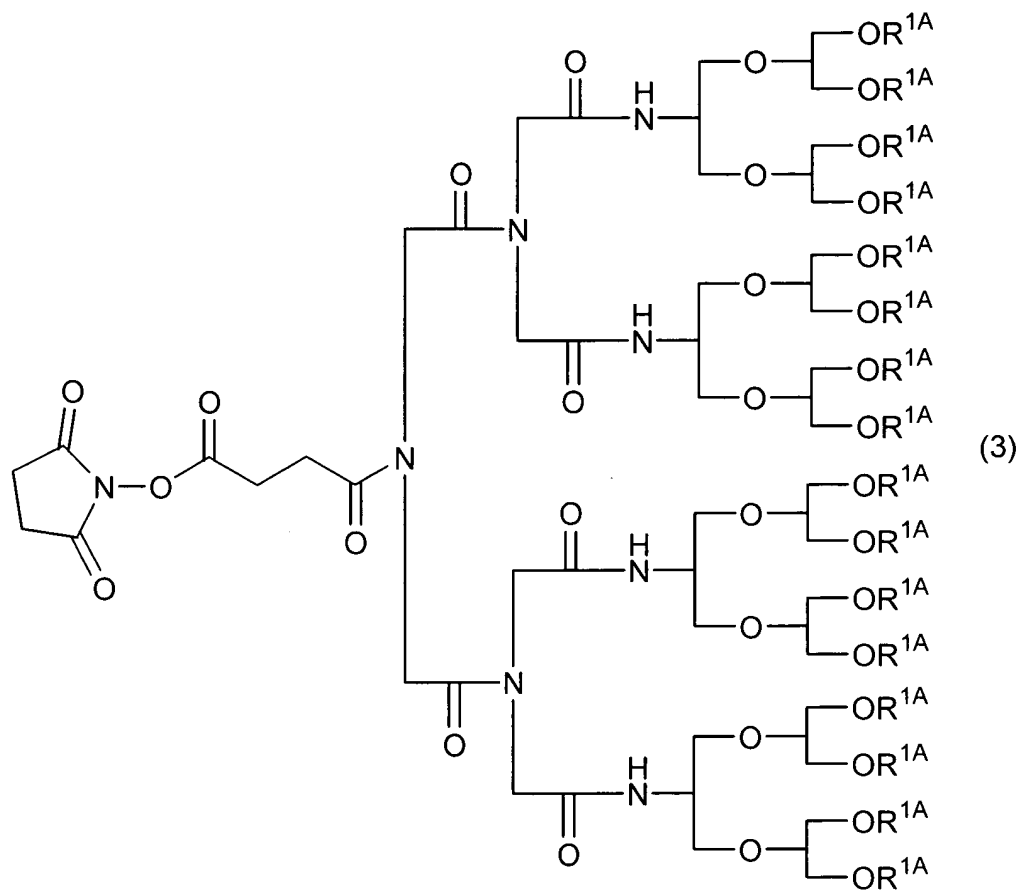
13. (Currently Amended) A mixture comprising at least two compounds according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 12~~ claim 1.

14. (Original) A compound represented by formula (2):



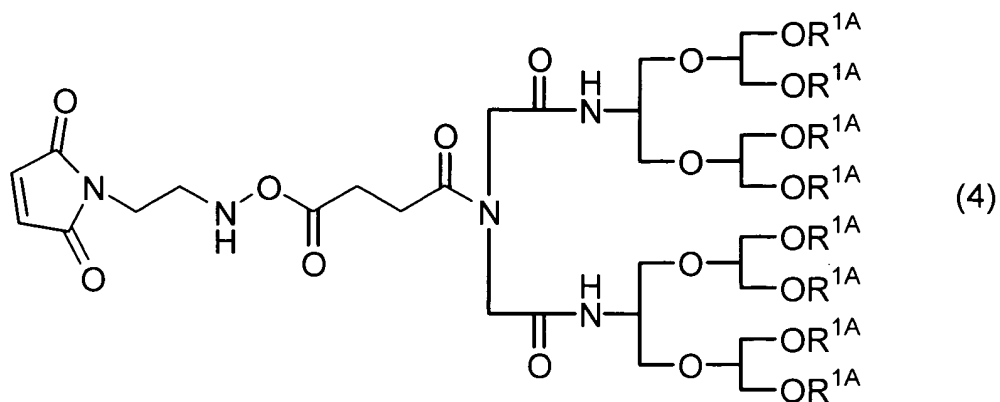
wherein R<sup>1A</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or benzyl.

15. (Original) A compound represented by formula (3):



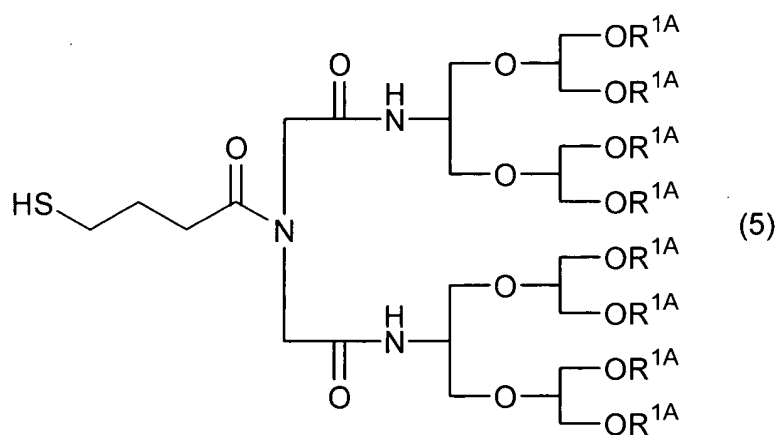
wherein R<sup>1A</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or benzyl.

16. (Original) A compound represented by formula (4):



wherein R<sup>1A</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or benzyl.

17. (Original) A compound represented by formula (5):



wherein R<sup>1A</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or benzyl.

18. (Currently Amended) A chemically modified polypeptide in which a physiologically active polypeptide or a derivative thereof is modified with at least one compound according to any one of claims 1 to 12 and 14 to 17 directly or via a spacer.

19. (Original) The chemically modified polypeptide according to claim 18, wherein the physiologically active polypeptide or the derivative thereof is selected from the group consisting of an enzyme, a cytokine, a hormone, a toxin, an antibody and derivatives thereof.

20. (Original) The chemically modified polypeptide according to claim 18, wherein the physiologically active polypeptide or the derivative thereof is selected from the group consisting of asparaginase, glutaminase, arginase, uricase, superoxide dismutase, lactoferrin, streptokinase, plasmin, adenosine deaminase, interleukin-1 to 24, interferon- $\alpha$ , interferon- $\beta$ , interferon- $\gamma$ , interferon- $\omega$ , interferon- $\tau$ , granulocyte-colony stimulating factor, erythropoietin, tumor necrosis factor, thrombopoietin, *klotho* protein, leptin, fibroblast growth factor-1 to 19, midkine, calcitonin, epidermal growth factor, glucagon, insulin, insulin-like growth factor-1, osteogenic protein-1, stem cell growth factor, amylin, parathyroid hormone, plasminogen activators, vascular endothelial cell growth factor, transforming growth factors, glucagon-like peptides, growth hormone, natriuretic peptides, plasminogen, angiopoietin, angiostatin, endostatin, neocarzinostatin, hepatocyte growth factor, ricin, *Pseudomonas* exotoxin, diphtheria toxin, soluble receptors thereof, and derivatives thereof.



21. (Currently Amended) The chemically modified polypeptide according to ~~any one of claims 18 to 20~~ claim 18, wherein the derivative of a physiologically active polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of the polypeptide in which an amino acid is deleted, the polypeptide in which an amino acid is substituted, the polypeptide in which an amino acid is inserted, the polypeptide in which an amino acid is added, the polypeptide in which a sugar chain is deleted, and the polypeptide in which a sugar chain is bound.

22. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition which comprises the chemically modified polypeptide according to ~~any one of claims 18 to 21~~ claim 18.

23. (Currently Amended) A method for improving the stability or water-solubility of a physiologically active polypeptide or a derivative thereof, which comprises chemically modifying the physiologically active polypeptide or the derivative thereof with the compound according to any one of claims 1 ~~to 12~~ and 14 to 17.

24. (Original) The method according to claim 23, wherein the physiologically active polypeptide or the derivative thereof is selected from the group

consisting of an enzyme, a cytokine, a hormone, a toxin, an antibody and derivatives thereof.

25. (Original) The method according to claim 23, wherein the physiologically active polypeptide or the derivative thereof is selected from the group consisting of asparaginase, glutaminase, arginase, uricase, superoxide dismutase, lactoferrin, streptokinase, plasmin, adenosine deaminase, interleukin-1 to 24, interferon- $\alpha$ , interferon- $\beta$ , interferon- $\gamma$ , interferon- $\omega$ , interferon- $\tau$ , granulocyte-colony stimulating factor, erythropoietin, tumor necrosis factor, thrombopoietin, *klotho* protein, leptin, fibroblast growth factor-1 to 19, midkine, calcitonin, epidermal growth factor, glucagons, insulin, insulin-like growth factor-1, osteogenic protein-1, stem cell growth factor, amylin, parathyroid hormone, plasminogen activator, vascular endothelial cell growth factor, transforming growth factor, glucagons-like peptide, growth hormone, natriuretic peptides, plasminogen, angiopoietin, angiostatin, endostatin, neocarzinostatin, hepatocyte growth factor, ricin, *Pseudomonas* exotoxin, diphtheria toxin, soluble receptors thereof, and derivatives thereof.

26. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~any one of~~ ~~claims 23 to 25~~ claim 23, wherein the derivative of the physiologically active polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of the polypeptide in which an amino acid is deleted, the polypeptide in which an amino acid is substituted, the polypeptide in which an amino

acid is inserted, the polypeptide in which an amino acid is added, the polypeptide in which a sugar chain is deleted, and the polypeptide in which a sugar chain is bound.

27. (Currently Amended) A chemically modified low molecular compound in which a low molecular compound is modified with at least one compound according to any one of claims 1 to 12 and 14 to 17, directly or via a spacer.

28. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition which comprises the chemically modified low molecular compound according to claim 27.

29. (Currently Amended) A method for improving the stability or water-solubility of a low molecular compound, which comprises chemically modifying the low molecular compound with the compound according to any one of claims 1 to 12 and 14 to 17.

30. (Currently Amended) A chemically modifying agent for a physiologically active polypeptide or a derivative thereof, or a low molecular compound which comprises the compound according to any one of claims 1 to 12 and 14 to 17.